

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /101 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:CF
APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:TAHALSTED
-----027037 151857Z /50

P 151810Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 15 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX
BERN FOR INDIAN OCEAN DELEGATION

1. FULL TEXT OF EVANS AND NOVAK ARTICLE SENT SEPTTEL.
2. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID PRAVDA EDITORIAL HAD COMPLICATED EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SALT AGREEMENT THIS YEAR. BURT SAID "ARMS CONTROL ANALYSTS ARE STILL STUDYING 5,000 WORD STATE-UNCLASSIFIED

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MENT, AND OFFICIALS HAVE DECLINED PUBLIC COMMENT ABOUT ITS IMPACT ON TALKS IN GENEVA. PRIVATELY, SOME OFFICIALS SAID SOVIET DISCLOSURE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO SIDES HAD MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR U.S- TO ENTER INTO COMPROMISES THAT MIGHT HAVE LED TO AN ACCORD THIS SPRING. OFFICIALS SAY TALKS COULD NOW DRAG ON UNTIL AFTER CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER...MOST OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT

EDITORIAL REFLECTS BOTH DESIRE BY SOVIET LEADERSHIP TO REACH AN AGREEMENT AND ITS FRUSTRATION OVER DOMESTIC AMERICAN CRITICISM DIRECTED AT PROPOSED OUTLINE OF AN ACCORD. AT SAME TIME, EDITORIAL, IN JUSTIFYING SOVIET

POSITIONS ON DISPUTED POINTS, IS ALSO SAID TO INDICATE THAT MOSCOW IS UNWILLING TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS." BURT SAID THERE WERE APPARENT DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION IN GOVERNMENT AS TO MOTIVES BEHIND EDITORIAL. ARMS CONTROL OFFICIALS SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AIMED AT ALLAYING FEARS AMONG HARDLINERS IN SOVIET LEADERSHIP, BURT REPORTED. HIGH-LEVEL ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL SAID IT WAS MEANT TO MUSTER SUPPORT FOR SOVIET POSITION AMONG ARMS CONTROL ADVOCATES IN CONGRESS, BURT CONTINUED. "BUT HE SAID SUCH AN EFFORT WAS MORE LIKELY TO INCREASE SKEPTICISM ON CAPITOL HILL OVER SOVIET MOTIVES," BURT ADDED. "ASSESSMENT WAS ENDORSED BY CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS AND SUPPORTERS OF ACCORD."

3. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED THAT U.S. ANALYSTS THINK PRAVDA EDITORIAL MAY BE SIGNAL KREMLIN EXPECTS AN ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED SOON. UPI SAID ASSESSMENT CAME FROM BOTH ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTERS AND CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS OF U.S. POSITION. "ON FIRST READING EDITORIAL SOUNDED LIKE WARNING, OR POSSIBLY EVEN THREAT OF AN APPROACHING BREAKDOWN," UPI SAID. "BUT CLOSER UNCLASSIFIED

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READING HAS LED TO DIFFERENT ASSESSMENT: SOVIETS ARE LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR AN EARLY CONCLUSION OF TREATY AND EDITORIAL IS ATTEMPT TO CLEAN UP SOME FINAL POINTS BEFORE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED."

4. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST VICTOR ZORZA, WRITING IN FEB. 15 WASHINGTON POST, SAID KREMLIN, IN PRAVDA EDITORIAL, "TROUTS OUT TRADITIONAL LIST OF COLD WARRIORS, FROM PENTAGON AND COMMITTEE ON PRESENT DANGER TO MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, BUT THOSE 'OPEN OPPONENTS' SEEM TO CAUSE IT LESS CONCERN THAN HIDDEN ADVERSARIES WHOM IT EVIDENTLY REGARDS AS FAR MORE DANGEROUS.... TO THOSE PREPARED TO READ BETWEEN LINES, ANOTHER MESSAGE BECOMES EVIDENT. WHAT PRAVDA IS SAYING, AT THIS DEEPER LEVEL, IS THAT SOME OF CARTER'S ADVISERS ARE AS BAD AS OUTSIDE COLD WARRIORS -- SUCH AS ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. APART FROM DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD BROWN, WHO AS PENTAGON'S TOP OFFICIAL IS BY DEFINITION BLACK BEAST IN SOVIET VIEW, BRZEZINSKI IS ADMINISTRATION'S MEMBER ATTACKED MOST FREQUENT -- AND, INDEED, MORE SHARPLY THAN BROWN -- BECAUSE HE IS PERCEIVED BY KREMLIN AS ACTING AS CARTER'S EVIL SPIRIT." ZORZA

SAID SOME OF DETAILED AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIONS THAT PRAVDA RAISES AGAINST PRESENT U.S. ATTITUDES ON SALT CAN BE TRACED TO BRZEZINSKI'S EARLIER VIEWS ON ARMS LIMITATION ISSUES. HE SAID SOVIET OFFICIALS APPEAR TO WORK ON ASSUMPTION THAT IN DETERMINATION OF SALT POLICY, BRZEZINSKI IS "HARD-LINER -- WHATEVER WASHINGTON DETRACTORS (WHO

REGARD HIM AS BLOWING HOT AND COLD, DEPENDING ON PRESIDENT'S MOOD) MAY SAY." AT OTHER END OF SPECTRUM, ZORZA SAID, SOVIET OFFICIALS SEE WARNKE, "WHOM THEY REGARD AS MODERATE. IN THIS, WASHINGTON VIEW CONCURS WITH THEIRS, AND BOTH ARE RIGHT. RUSSIANS HAVE ALSO FOUND HIM TOUGH NEGOTIATOR, WITH NIMBLE LAWYER'S MIND, WHO CAN DRIVE COACH-AND-FOUR THROUGH POORLY CONSTRUCTED UNCLASSIFIED

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ARGUMENT -- BUT WHO CAN ALSO SEIZE TINY OPENING AND ENLARGE IT SUFFICIENTLY TO GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO NEGOTIATIONS." IN MIDDLE, ZORZA CONTINUED, THEY SEE VANCE, "WHO INDEED ACTS AS SOMETHING OF MIDDLEMAN, THOUGH PERHAPS WITH SLIGHT INCLINATION TO FAVOR WARNKE'S VIEWS OVER BRZEZINSKI'S, AT LEAST ON ARMS CONTROL MATTERS." ZORZA SAID KREMLIN IS SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY BROWN, "WHO, ON ONE HAND, PRESIDES OVER BIGGEST U.S. MILITARY BUDGET IN HISTORY, WHILE ON OTHER HAND IS MAKING MORE DETERMINED EFFORT TO CURB APPETITES OF MILITARY THAN ANY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SINCE ROBERT MCNAMARA." FOR ALL PRAVDA'S CAREFUL WORDING AND ITS FAILURE TO DISCUSS DIRECTLY ATTITUDES OF KEY ADMINISTRATION FIGURES, ZORZA EXPLAINED, "THIS IS REALLY ISSUE TO WHICH IT ADDRESSES ITSELF BETWEEN LINES. IT IS WARNING ADMINISTRATION IN EFFECT THAT KREMLIN CAN BE PUSHED ONLY THUS FAR AND NO FURTHER ON VARIOUS SALT ISSUES IN DISPUTE, AND IT IS TELLING CARTER THAT, IF HE LISTENS TO BRZEZINSKI RATHER THAN TO WARNKE, ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT MIGHT COME TO GRIEF." ZORZA POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT BY SHOWING CARTER HOW CONCERNED IT IS ABOUT BRZEZINSKI'S VIEWS, KREMLIN MIGHT PERSUADE PRESIDENT THAT BRZEZINSKI IS "GOOD MAN TO HAVE AROUND FOR MORE REASONS THAN ALL OBVIOUS ONES."

5. MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO ADMINISTRATION'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WOULD APPROVE SALE OF 4.8 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ADVANCED MILITARY PLANES TO EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND ISRAEL. GRAHAM HOVEY OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT ADMINISTRATION SAID DECISION WAS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN EXISTING MILITARY BALANCE AND ADVANCE CAUSE OF PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. "SENIOR OFFICIALS CONCEDED THAT THEY WOULD FACE TOUGH FIGHT IN CONGRESS OVER DECISIONS TO SELL FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT -- FIRST UNCLASSIFIED

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TIME BY U.S. -- TO PROVIDE SAUDI ARABIA WITH MOST
ADVANCED OF AMERICAN MILITARY PLANES AND TO GIVE ISRAEL
FAR LESS IN NEW WEAPONRY THAT IT HAD REQUESTED. OFFICIAL
EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT DECISIONS REPRESENTED PACKAGE
AND SAID THAT IF CONGRESS REJECTED PARTS OF PACKAGE
ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER OTHER PARTS,
KEEPING IN MIND MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND
ARAB NATIONS." VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE039867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPMPOPE:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780070-0075
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780251/aaaabria.tel
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 31daf2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3584898
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEBRUARY 15 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL INTEREST LONDON FOR AMB/EX
TAGS: PARM, SOPN
To: GENEVA USSALTTWO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/31daf2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014